

Open Source Culture Heritage of Humanity Recognition

Policy Recommendation for the UNESCO World Heritage Center (WHC)

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Policy Recommendation:

We propose the recognition of open source culture as an intangible heritage of humanity in compliance with the United Nations Education Science Culture Organization (UNESCO) 2016 Recommendation on Open Education and 2021 Recommendation on Open Science and overall usage and promotion of free libre open source solutions (FLOSS) in this vast cultural landscape that includes, at least, open software, open licenses, open finances, open governance, open businesses, open infra, open hardware, open access, open justice, open heritage, and open education.

Relevance Analysis:

The recognition of "Open Source Culture" as a heritage of humanity by the UNESCO World Heritage Center (WHC) will significantly address various information technology (IT) challenges faced by minorities and impoverished communities in the whole world by bridging digital divides, empowering marginalized populations, and fostering more auditable transparent international systems through a more horizontal labor model in a fuller public international law (PIL) regulatory compliance with the United Nations (UN) own International Telecommunications Union (ITU) policies along the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) best practices standards.

Research Overview:

1. UNESCO. (2023). *Positioning software source code as digital heritage for sustainable development*. Retrieved from <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000366715>.
2. UNESCO. (2003). *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage*. Retrieved from <https://ich.unesco.org/en/convention>.
3. UNESCO. (2023). *UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science*. Retrieved from <https://unesco.org/en/open-science/about>.
4. UNESCO. (2019). *Open Solutions*. Retrieved from <https://unesco.org/en/open-solutions>.
5. UNESCO. (2015). *Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to documentary heritage including digital form*. Retrieved from <https://unesco.org/en/legal-affairs/recommendation-concerning-preservation-and-access-documentary-heritage-including-digital-form>.

Actionable Next Steps:

To advance the recognition of open source culture as a heritage of humanity, the following actionable steps are recommended:

1. *Stakeholder Engagement:* Organize workshops and forums involving stakeholders from academia, civil society, technology sectors, and governments to discuss the importance of open source culture.
2. *Policy Advocacy:* Develop advocacy materials that highlight the benefits of recognizing open source culture, targeting policymakers within UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and member states.
3. *Research Compilation:* Compile research studies and case examples demonstrating the positive impact of open source solutions on marginalized communities.
4. *Public Awareness Campaigns:* Launch campaigns to raise public awareness about the significance of open source culture, utilizing social media platforms, webinars, and community events.
5. *Collaboration with International Organizations:* Partner with organizations such as the ITU (International Telecommunications Union) and IGF (Internet Governance Forum) to align efforts in promoting open source culture within broader digital inclusion initiatives.
6. *Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:* Establish a framework for monitoring the impact of open source culture recognition on communities to provide evidence for ongoing advocacy efforts.
7. *Formal Proposal Submission:* Prepare a formal proposal for submission to UNESCO's World Heritage Center (WHC) outlining the rationale for recognizing open source culture as a heritage of humanity.